

THE DEMOCRAT

VOL. I

HONOLULU, T. H., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1910.

No. 13

BOLD REPUBLICAN ATTEMPT TO STEAL THE PUBLIC LANDS

A bold attempt on the part of certain Republican Special Interests, aided and abetted by Governor Walter Francis Frear and certain other influential elements of the Republican party is being made just now to steal from the Territory many thousands of acres of land on the Island of Hawaii.

So confident are the conspirators of being able to pull off the nefarious deal without successful opposition that they have made no attempt to hide their designs. They have come boldly out into the open and announced that at the coming short session of Congress they will attempt to put through a bill which will enable them to perpetrate the robbery in legal form and without fear of being stopped.

What the conspirators are trying to do is to steal, for a period of no less than fifty years, thousands of acres of valuable land in Kau. Recently a conference was held in the office of Governor Frear, at which Edward Pollitz, the San Francisco capitalist, and several of the millionaire promoters of Hawaii were present, and the preliminary plans of the wholesale robbery of the people were drawn up.

John McCrosson and some of his business associates, it will be remembered, proposed some weeks ago to construct an irrigation ditch from the Puna and Olaa districts, around the crater of Kilauea into the now barren and arid lands of Kau. Such a project, if successfully carried out, would be of great value to the Territory and would open up to cultivation thousands of acres of now barren land.

But the projectors of this big enterprise, being business men who are in business for the money it brings them, cannot be expected to work from an altruistic standpoint. They want to make money, and they cannot be blamed for this. Those who should be blamed are the Government officials who boldly announce their intention of helping to rob the citizens of this Territory of their heritage.

It is indeed true that the barren lands of Kau should be reclaimed; that they should be made to blossom like the rose; that homesteads should take the place of sun-scorched lava lands. But — and here is the point — this should be done by the Government, not by private enterprise, the only object of which is to put money into the pockets of the projectors!

It is boldly stated in the Advertiser of the date of November 2 that the object of the proposed ditch will be to increase the yield of Hutchinson plantation. The Advertiser prophesies that when the ditch is completed, the output of Hutchinson, now about 7,000 tons a year, will be increased to from 40,000 to 50,000 tons, making it one of the biggest producers in the Islands.

Nobody can object if Hutchinson plantation increases its output. In fact, everybody will be glad of it. But the public cannot be expected to rejoice very heartily if this proposed increase is at the expense of the general public, if, in order to bring it about, it is neces-

sary to steal thousands of acres of public land from the people for a period of fifty years!

The barren lands of Kau should be reclaimed—but at public expense. In the brief of L. L. McCandless in opposition to the proposed amendments of the Organic Act, Mr. McCandless said: "I would recommend that the Reclamation Act . . . be extended to the Territory of Hawaii without exceptions or exemptions, but plainly stating that the same shall be under the control, management and jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, the same as in other Territories. . . Large tracts of public land in Hawaii which are now arid, or semi-arid, could be made useful and profitable for homestead purposes by extension of the Reclamation Act to this Territory. No greater benefit could be conferred upon our people, **but the lands so reclaimed must be guarded against acquisition by corporations as well as the enlargement of private estates, to hold agricultural land for speculation should be an impossibility if laws can be made to effect that result.**"

But Governor Frear and his Republican associates are now trying to turn over to a corporation thousands of acres of valuable land. True, the land needs water upon it, but why should not the Government build the ditch? Why should not the Reclamation Act be extended to Hawaii?

There is little doubt but that if a sincere attempt were made, the Reclamation Act could be extended to Hawaii, and there would be no necessity of depending upon private corporations to build irrigating ditches to open up public land, paying them as the price for their expenditure the very land they propose to open up.

True, it is only proposed to give the corporation a lease, but A LEASE FOR FIFTY YEARS! As well give them the land in fee simple, so far as those now alive are concerned.

The proposed project is the boldest attempt to rob a community of millions of dollars that has ever been attempted. The Republican Governor and his fellow conspirators announce that they are going to crowd through the short session of Congress a bill to legalize this proposed robbery. Are the voters going to stand for it?

There is only one way they can be sure of defeating this nefarious scheme. That is to elect L. L. McCandless to Congress, confident that he will do all in his power to checkmate the dishonest intentions of the Republicans.

We cannot depend upon Kuhio. He is hand in glove with those who are trying to pilfer the Territory. Those who are trying to put through this scheme are Cupid's closest friends. The plotters will be aided, not opposed, by Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole.

If the voters want to save to the public thousands of acres of public land, worth millions of dollars, their only course is to elect McCandless as Delegate to Congress and give him the chance to fight the conspirators.

STENOGRAPHER JONES AND EDMUNDS ACT BRECKONS PLAY A CROOKED GAME AND LOSE

"Colonel" John W. Jones, the Elongated Stenographic Tactician, chief of the National Guard of Hawaii whose only idea of military tactics is to put the city under martial law when a Chinese princeling happens to come along, and Robert W. Breckons, United States District Attorney, who in order to make a show of earning his own salary and helping two judges to earn theirs, spends most of his time trying to send Hawaiians to jail for violation of the rotten Edmunds Act, together concocted a scheme to keep the Hawaiian band from playing at the Democratic rally at Aala park last night.

Fortunately their crooked politics and their nasty attempt to use their delegated authority for political purposes met with merited defeat and the Republican party met with the loss of a large number of votes through the discovery of their treachery and political dishonesty.

As was quite natural, both parties desired to obtain the services of the Hawaiian band. The Republican party, having stolen the band stand, thought it should be entitled to the band to go with it.

But the band boys are too wise to be Republicans. They know that the Republicans and the Special Interests allied with them have already stolen the government and most of the land that once belonged to the Hawaiians, and when the Republicans demanded that they play at the Republican rally without pay, they refused.

Then the Republican party leaders, seeing their error, offered the band boys \$1.50 each to play. But in the meantime the boys had been offered by the Democrats \$2.00 each to play at the Democratic rally and they had agreed to play there.

Here is where Col. Jones and Bob Breckons, two of the Republican ward-healers, stepped in.

Col. Jones, being for a nice fat salary, nominal head of the National Guard, although he knows no more about war than a stenographic lead-pencil, and Bob Breckons, the man who, to boost his own selfish schemes, has sent scores of Hawaiians to jail, got their heads together and concocted what they thought was a very smart scheme.

Col. Jones, presuming upon his official position, took it upon himself as head of the National Guard, to order the band boys to play at the Republican rally. The band boys, being more honest and decent than Col. Jones ever thought of being, refused to violate their word. They would play at Democratic rally, they said.

Then the Elongated Stenographic Tactician, the shorthand writer who im-

agines that he is a modern Napoleon and who draws a fat salary chiefly for wearing a uniform and imitating a match, swelled out his official chest, drew his terrible sword, assumed his usual ridiculously haughty manner, and declared that the band instruments belonged to the government and if the band boys would not agree to play for the Republican rally, they should not use the band instruments. General Order No. 23 for Col. Jones.

The order simply meant that Col. Jones and Bob Breckons were trying to use their official positions to damage the Democratic cause; that Bob Breckons was violating the law he is sworn to enforce, in regard to intimidation of voters, that Col. Jones, puffed up in his own ridiculous pride that always goes before a fall, was making more of a spectacle of himself than even nature intended, and that both of them were trying to make a last desperate effort to win votes for the Republican party by injuring the Democratic party.

But, foolish in their own conceit, they both failed. It is true that Col. Jones succeeded in taking away the band instruments, while Bob Breckons stood by and chuckled. But they did not succeed in preventing the band from playing at the Democratic rally. For the Democrats went out and rented band instruments from one of the other bands of the city and the band was on hand as scheduled, to play at the Democratic rally.

Bob Breckons is a Federal appointee and the voters have nothing to say about his tenure of office—unless, perhaps, another Thwing arises to make charges against him at Washington—but, fortunately for the Territory, Col. John W. Jones is a gubernatorial appointee who has to be confirmed by the Senate and whom the voters can get at through their representatives in the legislature.

Sometime along about next February or March Col. Jones is due to get his and he will get it somewhere between his shoulders and the lower extremity of his "head." If the National Guard is to have a chief, it might just as well have a good man as to have an Elongated Stenographic Tactician whose only claim to the fat salary is his presumption, his elongation and his lack of military knowledge and political decency.

Nobody who knows Breckons can be surprised at his part in the crooked scheme, and but one would naturally think that Col. Jones, who is dependent for his unnecessarily fat salary upon the good will of the voters, would have had more gumption than to try to defy them. He will get his at the next session of the legislature.